



5-26-06

Docket No. 7096/SYNX/JW

FFw/s

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Inventor(s): Martin R. Elliott, Robert B. Lowrance, Michael R. Rice, Jeffrey C. Hudgens and Eric A. Englhardt  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPLYING SUBSTRATES TO A PROCESSING TOOL  
Serial No.: 10/650,479  
Filed: August 28, 2003  
Examiner: Michael S. Lowe  
Group Art Unit: 3652

Transmitted herewith is:

- PTO Form 1449;  
 Information Disclosure Statement with thirty-one cited references;  
 Return Postcard.

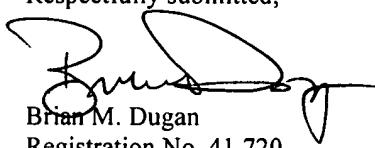
FEE CALCULATION					
Fee Items	Claims Filed	Included With Basic Fee	Extra Claims	Fee Rate	Total
Total Claims	N/A	- 20 =	-0-	X \$50.00	\$0.00
Independent Claims	N/A	- 3 =	-0-	X \$200.00	\$0.00
Basic Filing Fee (\$300.00), Utility Search Fee (\$500.00), Utility Examination Fee (\$200.00)					\$1000.00
<b>TOTAL FEES</b>					PAID

- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 04-1696.  
 The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.  
 Please address all future correspondence to: Customer # 41161  
Dugan & Dugan, PC  
55 South Broadway  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Receipt No. EV854243285US  
Date of Deposit: 5/26/06  
Signature: Brian M. Dugan

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brian M. Dugan  
Registration No. 41,720  
(914) 332-9081

Express Mail Label No. EV854243285US

PATENTS  
7096/SYNX/SYNX/JW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Martin R. Elliott et al.

Serial No. : 10/650,479

Filed : August 28, 2003

For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPLYING  
SUBSTRATES TO A PROCESSING TOOL

Group Art Unit : 3652

Customer No. : 41161

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97,  
applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the  
following references:

U.S. Patent No. 5,110,249, Arthur E. Norman

U.S. Patent No. 6,036,426, Gary Hillman

U.S. Patent No. 6,183,186, Peltola et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,142,722, Genov et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,304,051, Sagues et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,379,096, Beutler et al.

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U.S. Patent No. 6,468,021, Bonora et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,042,324, Aggarwal et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,980,183, Fosnight

U.S. Patent No. 5,628,604, Murata et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,387,265, Kakizaki et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,246,218, Yap et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,079,927, Muka

U.S. Patent No. 5,064,337, Asakawa et al.

U.S. Patent No. 4,964,776, Wakita et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,955,857, Kwon et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,586,585, Bonora et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,579,052, Bonora et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,481,558, Bonora et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,435,330, Bonora et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,506,009 B1, Nulman et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,955,517 A1, Nulman et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,388,945, Garric et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,788,447, Yonemitsu et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,042,324, Aggarwal et al.

Foreign Art Reference No. JP 10-256346 (Japan)

Foreign Art Reference No. EP 0 277 536 (EPO)

Foreign Art Reference No. WO 99/60614 (PCT)

Foreign Art Reference No. WO 99/54921 (PCT)

Foreign Art Reference No. WO 99/02436 (PCT)

Foreign Art Reference No. WO 98/46503 (PCT)

Please charge deposit account No. 04-1696 in the amount of \$180.00 for consideration of this information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2).

These references are also listed on the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449).

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian M. Dugan, Esq.  
Registration No. 41,720  
Dugan & Dugan, PC  
Attorneys for Applicants  
(914) 332-9081

Dated: 5/24/06  
Tarrytown, New York

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office

Docket No.:  
7096/SYNX/SYNX/JWSerial No.:  
10/650,479

## LIST OF RELEVANT ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicants:

Martin R. Elliott, et al

Filing Date:

August 28, 2003

Group:

3652

~~PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE~~ U.S. Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	US-1	5,110,249	05/05/92	Arthur E. Norman			
	US-2	6,036,426	03/14/00	Gary Hillman			
	US-3	6,183,186	02/06/01	Peltola et al.			
	US-4	6,142,722	11-2000	Genov et al.			
	US-5	6,304,051	10-2001	Sagues et al.			
	US-6	6,379,096	04-2002	Beutler et al.			
	US-7	6,468,021	10-2002	Bonora et al.			
	US-8	6,042,324	03/28/00	Aggarwal et al.			
	US-9	5,980,183	11/09/99	Fosnight			
	US-10	5,628,604	05/13/97	Murata et al.			
	US-11	5,387,265	02/07/95	Kakizaki et al.			

## Foreign Patent Documents

Translation

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	F-1	JP 10-256346	09/25/98	Japan			X	
	F-2	EP 0 277 536	08/10/88	EPO			Abstract	
	F-3	WO 99/60614	11/25/99	PCT			X	
	F-4	WO 99/54921	10/28/99	PCT			X	
	F-5	WO 99/02436	01/21/99	PCT			X	

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

OT-1	
OT-2	
OT-3	

Examiner	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office <b>LIST OF RELEVANT ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)				Docket No.: 7096/SYNX/SYNX/JW		Serial No.: 10/650,479		
				Applicants: Martin R. Elliott, et al				
				Filing Date: August 28, 2003		Group: 3652		
				<b>U.S. Patent Documents</b>				
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	US-12	5,246,218	09/1993	Yap et al.				
	US-13	6,079,927	06/2000	Muka				
	US-14	5,064,337	11/1991	Asakawa et al.				
	US-15	4,964,776	10/1990	Wakita et al.				
	US-16	5,955,857	09/21/99	Kwon et al.				
	US-17	5,586,585	12/24/96	Bonora et al.				
	US-18	6,579,052	06/17/03	Bonora et al.				
	US-19	6,481,558	11/19/02	Bonora et al.				
	US-20	6,435,330	08/20/02	Bonora et al.				
	US-21	6,506,009 B1	01/14/03	Nulman et al.				
	US-22	6,955,517 A1	10/18/05	Nulman et al.				
<b>Foreign Patent Documents</b>								
Translation								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	F-6	WO 98/46503	10/22/98	PCT			X	
	F-7							
	F-8							
	F-9							
	F-10							
<b>OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>								
	OT-4							
	OT-5							
	OT-6							
Examiner		Date Considered						
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	US-23	5,388,945	02/14/95	Garric et al.				
	US-24	5,788,447	08/04/98	Yonemitsu et al.				
	US-25	6,042,324	03/28/00	Aggarwal et al.				
	US-26							
	US-27							
	US-28							
	US-29							
	US-30							
	US-31							
	US-32							
	US-33							
Foreign Patent Documents Translation								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	F-11							
	F-12							
	F-13							
	F-14							
	F-15							
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	OT-7							
	OT-8							
	OT-9							
Examiner		Date Considered						
<b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.								